



# City Administrator's Report

October 2009

Dear Reader,

*Each month, this report from the City Administrator's Office provides a brief summary and update of major activities, events, projects, and programs that impact the Santa Barbara community. Feel free to send me your comments and suggestions.*

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## Key Meetings

### *City Council Meetings*

Tuesday, October 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers at 735 Anacapa Street.

## Community Events

### *10<sup>th</sup> Annual National Lights On Afterschool*

On Thursday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>, more than 7,500 communities across the nation including Santa Barbara will take part in *Lights On Afterschool* to call attention to the programs that keep our children safe, inspire them to learn, as well as assist working families with their afterschool care needs.

### *Fire Station 1 Open House*

On Saturday, October 24<sup>th</sup>, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., an Open House will be held to show the public the seismic retrofit and renovation of Fire Station No. 1 at 121 West Carrillo Street.

### *Election Day*

Tuesday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> is the City's Election Day. For more information on the General Municipal Election visit the website at [www.SBCityVote.org](http://www.SBCityVote.org).

## Flags on State Street

*Council on Drug Abuse and Alcohol (CADA) Fighting Back* October 13<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup>

*Domestic Violence Solutions*

October 23<sup>rd</sup> to November 2<sup>nd</sup>

## City Administrator's Office

**City Efforts to Prevent Possible Flooding.** The mid-October rainstorm resulted in little damage to the City. Fire, police, streets, parks, and creeks staff monitored hazardous conditions on roadways, burned hillsides, creeks, and areas downstream. Many crews worked through the night during the height of the storm. Crews cleared several large boulders from hillside areas and also cleared out clogged storm drains to minimize street flooding. Gibraltar Road north of El Cielito was closed due to boulders in the roadway. Several trees were reported damaged or fallen completely.

Fortunately, many flood mitigation projects were completed prior to the rain event to address potential erosion and increased flood flow during this winter's rains. Several projects were designed and constructed in a very short time frame. The State Street box culvert in the San Roque area was cleaned out to increase flood water conveyance capacity through the culvert under State Street. Debris racks were installed at Steven's Park, Tunnel Reservoir and Tunnel Road to intercept rocks, vegetation and other debris before it could reach drainage channels.

The Steven's Park Pedestrian Bridge over San Roque Creek was removed to help minimize the risk of flooding in Stevens Park and the surrounding neighborhood. For one or two years, the bridge will be stored in the parking lot and then reinstalled after the vegetation on the fire burned hills begins to regrow.

Additionally, the City coordinated with the County to accomplish the aerial hydromulching on the slopes above the City prior to the first storm of the season.

**Are You Prepared for Possible Floods?** Due to recent wild fires that burned in the areas above the City, heavy rains may result in flooding or mudslides. The public is invited to attend one of several informational meetings scheduled through December to plan for heavy rains and possible flooding conditions this winter. At the information meetings, residents will learn how local agencies are preparing for a flood emergency and how to protect their property. The meetings will be held at 6 p.m. on the following dates:

- Thursday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, Rockwood Women's Club, 670 Mission Canyon Road
- Wednesday, October 28<sup>th</sup>, American Red Cross, 2707 State Street
- Thursday, November 12<sup>th</sup>, Franklin Neighborhood Center, 1136 East Montecito Street
- Thursday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, Franklin School Auditorium, 1111 East Mason Street  
(Spanish translation is available at this meeting).
- Thursday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, Downtown Library Faulkner Gallery, 40 East Anapamu Street

For more information, visit the City's website at: [www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov/OES](http://www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov/OES).

**City Budget Adjustments Returning to Council.** After Council Budget Work Sessions were held in September to review budget shortfalls in the Fiscal Year 2009 and 2010 budgets, Council will review proposed budget adjustments for the Fiscal Year 2009 budget on October 27th and the Fiscal Year 2010 budget on November 10th. The balancing strategies include a combination of mid-year department budget cuts, keeping vacant positions unfilled and the use of one-time funds. The September work sessions were videotaped and can be found on the

City's website at: [www.SantaBarbaraCa.gov](http://www.SantaBarbaraCa.gov). In January, City departments will begin preparing Fiscal Year 2011 recommended budgets for Council review.

***Inside Santa Barbara.*** *Inside Santa Barbara* is the City's public information news magazine show that covers significant issues, projects, and events. The October episode covers the Upper Las Positas Storm Water Management and Creek Restoration Project, the Cliff Drive Underground Utility Project, the Big Read Program, and an update on the Airline Terminal Project. The show also includes a half-hour special called, "Before the Storm," on local winter storm preparedness. *Inside Santa Barbara* airs on the following days and times on City TV Channel 18: Mondays at 8 and 8:30 p.m.; Tuesdays at 5 and 5:30 p.m.; Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.; Saturdays at 9 and 9:30 p.m.; and Sundays at 10 and 10:30 p.m. *Inside Santa Barbara* can also be [viewed online](#). For more information, call City TV at 564-5311.

## **Administrative Services Department**

***Vote-By-Mail Election.*** Election Day is Tuesday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>. The City's General Municipal Election will be a vote-by-mail election. Voter packets consisting of the voter information pamphlet, ballots, and prepaid return envelopes were mailed by the City Clerk's Office on Monday, October 5<sup>th</sup>. Any registered voter who did not receive a ballot, spoiled their ballot, or misplace their ballot may obtain a replacement ballot at the City Clerk's Office or by calling 564-5309.

The last day ballots will be accepted is Election Day, Tuesday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>. Voters have the option to return their ballots using the prepaid postage return envelope or by dropping off their ballots at the City Clerk's Office during regular business hours through Election Day, Tuesday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Although this is a vote-by-mail election, voters will have the option to vote in person at any of the seven drop-off centers located throughout the City on Saturday, October 31<sup>st</sup> from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Election Day, Tuesday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Voters will cast their vote for Mayor (four-year term) and three City Councilmember (four-year term) seats. Voters will also vote "yes" or "no" on the following four ballot measures:

**Measure B-2009 – Building Heights:** Shall the City Charter be revised by amending Charter Section 1506 to reduce the maximum allowed building height within the City to forty-five (45) feet generally and forty (40) feet within the El Pueblo Viejo district except for those areas of the City zoned for single-family and two-family homes where the maximum building height will remain at thirty (30) feet?

**Measure C-2009 – Parks and Recreation Commission:** Shall the City Charter be revised by amending Charter Section 809 and Charter Section 810 to combine the Board of Park Commissioners with the Recreation Commission to form a new commission called the "Parks and Recreation Commission" and to allow the City Council to appoint a youth member of the new Parks and Recreation Commission?

*Measure D-2009 – Board of Harbor Commissioners:* Shall the City Charter be revised by amending Charter Section 811 to increase the number of Harbor Commissioners from five (5) to seven (7) members and to allow one member of the Commission to be a registered voter within Santa Barbara County and not necessarily just within the City of Santa Barbara as currently required?

*Measure E-2009 – Architectural Board of Review (ABR):* Shall the City Charter be revised by amending Charter Section 814 to reduce the number of Members on the Architectural Board of Review (the “ABR”) from nine (9) to seven (7) members and to allow the City Council to appoint up to three (3) ABR members from persons registered to vote within Santa Barbara County and not necessarily just within the City of Santa Barbara as currently required?

For a list of drop-off centers, more information regarding November's vote-by-mail election, ballot measures, or election material in Spanish, visit: [www.SBCityVote.org](http://www.SBCityVote.org).

## Airport Department

***Airline Terminal Project Groundbreaking Ceremony.*** A groundbreaking ceremony for the Airline Terminal Project at the Santa Barbara Airport will be held at the Terminal construction site on Thursday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>. The ceremony will mark the beginning of a two-year construction period which follows recent soil stabilization work.

***August Passenger Traffic Declines Slightly.*** Airline passenger traffic at Santa Barbara Airport decreased in August 2009 as compared to August 2008. This August, the Airport served 72,037 passengers, a 7.9% decrease when compared to last August's passenger traffic count. The highest average passenger loads were aboard the *United* flights to Denver (91.9%), *Delta* flights to Salt Lake City (88.1%) and *Horizon Air* flights to Seattle (86.2%).

## Community Development Department

***Planning Commission Update.*** On October 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6 p.m., the Commission will hold a joint discussion meeting with the Transportation and Circulation Committee on *Plan Santa Barbara*, specifically the traffic model that is being used to estimate traffic impacts. *Plan Santa Barbara* is the broad-based public outreach process that focuses on future growth and development.

## Finance Department

***Proposed Solid Waste Rates.*** Business rates for trash and recycling have been proposed to accomplish the City's goals for diversion. The proposed rates, which would take effect on November 1st, have been designed to reduce landfilled waste and provide greater incentives to businesses to recycle; establish new rates for foodscrap collection and composting; and make bills easier for customers to understand. Businesses will have an opportunity to save money on their trash bill by increasing their recycling. For an explanation of the changes, how to save money under the proposed rates, and a list of proposed business rate sheet, visit:

[www.SBRecycles.org](http://www.SBRecycles.org). Rates will become effective November 1, 2009 if adopted by City Council in late October.

**September Transient Occupancy Tax.** September Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) was down by 7.7% from the prior September, marking the 13th consecutive month of TOT declines. This is the first month of single-digit declines since last April. Both the current September and the previous one had 8 weekend days. However, the Labor Day weekend fell in September of this year, but was in August last year, not September. The updated Fiscal Year 2010 projections assumed a greater decline than was realized this month (-10% estimate vs. -7.7% actual). For Fiscal Year 2010, the revised TOT revenue estimate is \$11,351,970 and assumes an overall 5.7% decline from the prior year.

**Foodscrap Composting Comes to Santa Barbara.** The Foodscrap Composting Program officially kicks off for local businesses on Sunday, November 1<sup>st</sup>. On October 8<sup>th</sup>, the City's Environmental Services Division hosted a Foodscrap Participant Meeting for 31 restaurant owners and managers. A field trip to the Sojourner Restaurant, which participated in the Foodscrap Pilot Program, highlighted the efficiency and ease of incorporating foodscrap collection into a business. Environmental Services offers free education and support to businesses and on how to start a foodscrap service, how to save money through increased recycling and composting, and the community benefits of utilizing waste in a more responsible manner. Businesses interested in starting foodscrap service can call the City's Environmental Services Program at 564-5631.

## Fire Department

**The Great California Shakeout.** On October 15<sup>th</sup>, millions of Californians participated in the largest earthquake drill ever. City employees took part in the event by practicing "drop, cover, and hold on" for 60 seconds starting at 10:15 a.m. to practice actions that should be taken during a real earthquake. This drill was a good reminder to review your earthquake and evacuation plans at work and at home. Actions taken before a big earthquake can make a big difference after this natural disaster occurs. For more information on this historic drill, contact the City's Emergency Services Division in the Fire Department at 564-5711.

**Fire Station Renovation Completed.** The seismic retrofit and renovation of Fire Station 1 at 121 West Carrillo Street is complete. Construction on this critical public safety improvement project began in June 2008. It cost \$7 million and was funded by the City Redevelopment Agency. The new Emergency Operations Center and classroom training area are being furnished and will officially be ready in late October. A public Open House is planned for Saturday, October 24<sup>th</sup>, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and the ribbon-cutting ceremony with Mayor Marty Blum is scheduled for Friday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> at 3 p.m.

## Library Department

**Reading is FUNdamental.** In an effort to encourage reading and library use in our community's youngest members, the Santa Barbara Public Library System and Reading Is Fundamental, Inc. are teaming up to distribute 3,000 free books to second and third grade



students. Through engaging story times and presentations, students are reminded that library cards are free and that librarians are eager to help them find books. In September, the Library distributed over 500 books and will distribute another 500 in October.

***Santa Barbara Reads Kickoff.*** The Annual Community Reading Program, “Santa Barbara Reads,” kicked off on September 25<sup>th</sup> with a celebration that included a reading of *Fahrenheit 451*, music, dancing, and a training about how to use a fire extinguisher by the City Fire Department. This year, Santa Barbara Reads is supported by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts “Big Read” program. For a list of other free events, visit: [www.sbplibrary.org](http://www.sbplibrary.org).

## Parks and Recreation

***10<sup>th</sup> Annual Creek Week.*** Over 1,300 community members participated in 23 events during Santa Barbara’s 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Creek Week, held September 19<sup>th</sup> through 26<sup>th</sup>. Coordinated by the City Creeks Division, County Project Clean Water, the Cities of Carpinteria and Goleta, Creek Week kicked off with the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Coastal Cleanup Day, in which 4,443 pounds of trash and debris was removed from beaches and creeks countywide. Thirty students at Adams Elementary School planted native plants at the newly constructed bioswale on their campus. Neighbors toured the Upper Las Positas Creek Restoration and Storm Water Management Project at the Santa Barbara Golf Club. Horny Toad Activewear employees cleaned and replaced 110 storm drain markers in the beachfront and downtown areas. County Project Clean Water sold 600 rain barrels in just over three hours! Other events during the week-long celebration included presentations about efforts to restore the endangered steelhead trout to our local creeks, tours of the Arroyo Hondo Preserve and the Carpinteria Salt Marsh Reserve, a bird walk with the Santa Barbara Audubon Society, games and activities hosted by Art From Scrap at the Watershed Resource Center, and an environmental awareness challenge called “Trash Wars” designed by Youth CineMedia.

***National Lights On Afterschool to be Celebrated Locally.*** The 10th annual nationwide celebration of afterschool programs will take place on Thursday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>. More than 7,500 communities across the nation, including Santa Barbara, will take part in Lights On Afterschool, to call attention to the programs that keep our children safe, inspire them to learn, and assist with afterschool needs for working families. To find out more about Lights On Afterschool, visit: [www.afterschoolalliance.org](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org).

On October 22<sup>nd</sup>, afterschool programs at local elementary schools will celebrate this event in a variety of ways. Fences and other areas around the schools will be decorated with paper light bulbs, colored by the kids in the program. Families will be invited to attend so that they can experience a typical day of activities including crafts, sports, Laugh Riot, Wild Rumpus, homework assistance and much more. Parents and guardians will be able to obtain information on all afterschool programs available on school campuses including the Santa Barbara School Districts’ Child Development Program, PTA-funded classes, tutoring, health screening, Americorp programs and other programs available to keep children well cared for during the after school hours.

The Roosevelt Recreation Afterschool Program will host a special open house from 5 to 7 p.m. with global games and food from around the world to showcase the overwhelming support from the City of Santa Barbara and Santa Barbara School Districts.

## Police Department

***Gang Member Arrested After Foot Pursuit.*** On September 4<sup>th</sup> at 9 p.m., officers with the Santa Barbara Police Department were driving in the 900 block East Haley Street. They observed a known gang member walking with three other gang members. This person was on juvenile probation with "no gang association" terms and had an 8 p.m. curfew. One officer attempted to contact the known gang member, but he ran away. With the officer close behind, the man sprinted for two blocks, ducked around a corner, and hid in the 900 block of East Cota Street. Officers set up a containment perimeter and then began searching for the known gang member. After several minutes, he was flushed from his hiding place and a second pursuit ensued. This time, he was captured, taken into custody, and booked at Juvenile Hall for violation of probation and resisting arrest.

***Officers Talk Suicidal Subject Down from Rooftop.*** On September 23<sup>rd</sup>, police officers responded to a residential mental health care facility on Micheltorena Street on a call of a suicidal person on the roof. Officers arrived to find a 21-year old woman slitting her wrists with broken glass and threatening to jump. Her position near the edge of the roofline made a physical rescue impossible. The officers gained the woman's rapport and cooperation. She dropped the glass piece and voluntarily crawled back into the house via a second-floor window. Once inside, the officers had to physically restrain her to allow paramedics to check her wrist lacerations. Paramedics transported her to Cottage Hospital for medical treatment and psychological assessment.

## Public Works Department

***Loma Alta Street Lighting and Sidewalk Project in Progress.*** Construction has commenced on the Loma Alta Street Lighting and Sidewalk Project. The Project is located along the northeast side of Loma Alta Drive between Coronel and Canon Perdido Streets. The work consists of the construction of sidewalk and lighting that will link two portions of the City where no pedestrian facilities currently exist. The sidewalk will provide pedestrian passage from the Westside to the Mesa, beaches, City College, and residential areas to the east. Loma Alta Street is closed during construction. The project is expected to be completed by February 2010.

***City Sandbag Station Open Through October 16.*** With the watershed damage that occurred as a result of the Tea and Jesusita Fires in the foothills above the City, flooding was a concern during the rains this month. Residents who live adjacent to San Roque, Arroyo Burro, Mission, or Sycamore Creeks were encouraged to place sandbags on their properties. When properly placed, sandbags redirect water and debris flows away from properties. The City Sandbag Station is now open for local residents at the City Corporate Yard on 401 East Yanonali Street. The City Sandbag Station is open through Friday, October 16 from 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. There is no limit on the number of sandbags that residents may fill and take. Residents should bring gloves and must fill sandbags themselves. No contractors are allowed to take sandbags. Sandbags may also be purchased at local hardware and building supply stores.



Some building supply stores will deliver filled sandbags with advance notice. The City will continue to open the sandbag station throughout the winter as needed based on the weather forecast. To find out more information on how to protect your property from erosion mud flows and flooding on your property, visit: [Homeowner's Guide for Flood Prevention and Response](#) and [Homeowner's Guide to Erosion Control](#).

**Energy Block Grant Funds Awarded.** The City received an Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant of \$868,200, as part of federal economic stimulus funds. Most funds will be allocated to energy efficiency projects in City facilities and \$50,000 will go toward developing a Climate Action Plan. Energy projects in City facilities will include lighting retrofits, heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) system upgrades and replacements, HVAC and lighting automation systems, and building system commissioning. It is estimated that completion of these projects will save the City 526,000 kWhs of electricity and \$81,000 annually. Based on the U.S. Department of Energy's calculations, this effort will create or retain 10 jobs in the community.

## Waterfront Department

**Annual Harbor and Seafood Festival.** In spite of some cool autumn weather, thousands of visitors and residents showed up for the 8<sup>th</sup> annual Harbor and Seafood Festival held October 10<sup>th</sup> at the Santa Barbara Harbor. Commercial fishermen provided fresh lobster, prawns, and crab straight from their boats. Other food booths offered barbequed albacore, steamed crab, clam chowder, lobster bisque, paella, fish tacos, shrimp cocktails and more. In addition to the delectable seafood, there were 42 arts and crafts booths, cooking demonstrations, children's activities, boat rides, tall ship *Spirit of Dana Point* tours and marine related educational opportunities provided by several agencies. Some lucky ticket holder won a Smart Car, which was raffled off by the Maritime Museum as a fundraiser for their organization. While enjoying all the activities and sumptuous seafood, festival-goers enjoyed live music by *Spencer the Gardner* and *Fish and the Seaweeds* throughout the day. The festival is jointly presented by the Waterfront Department, Commercial Fishermen of Santa Barbara, Inc., the Santa Barbara Harbor Merchants' Association and the Maritime Museum in coordination with volunteers from NOAA/Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary, Santa Barbara City College Culinary Program, and students from Santa Barbara High School.

**Marina 1 Replacement Project About to Begin.** Marina 1 is Santa Barbara Harbor's largest dock system. It was built in the mid-1970s and is in need of replacement. Construction on the Marina 1 Replacement Project is scheduled to begin in mid-November with landside elements of the project, including the installation of a new transformer and upgraded electrical service to the marina. Waterside construction includes replacing the main headwalk, gangway, and utilities and is scheduled to begin January 2010. A series of meetings with Marina One slipholders have been held to keep them updated on the project schedule and status. Construction has been set up in phases to minimize disruption to boaters and the public. Construction of Phase 1 is expected to be complete by spring of 2010.